GSLingo
GSL Newsletter

August 2005

From the Director's Desk

In the last issue of the Lingo, I focused on the goals of the GSL. These are very important to the future of GSL, so let me update you on our progress.

Goal 1, Publish 33 journal articles in FY05 – So far this year, we've published 11 journal articles, have had 11 more accepted for publication, and have another 29 submitted for publication.

Goal 2, Strive for 80% of Engineers and Scientists (E&S's) with MS or PhD degrees – Our goal is to increase the number of E&S's with graduate degrees from 126 last year to 130 this fiscal year (or 74% of the total 175 E&S's). So far this year, 127 of our E&S's have a graduate degree. The 80% goal is a long-term one, but we continue to make good progress toward it.

Goal 3, Get 10 new customers – Here's where you have excelled. (New customers are defined here as those for whom we haven't worked in over 3 years and who fund us $50K or more.) To date, we've gotten 12 new customers, with new funding totaling $1.8M. Congratulations—and keep up the great work!

Goal 4, Strive for 60% of GSL E&S's, technicians, and administrative personnel to obtain their professional licenses and/or certifications – Our goal is for 110 of our 275 total Federal employees to obtain a license or certification. So far, 96 GSL Federal employees are registered or have some type of certification, so we need 14 more to fulfill our FY05 goal.

Goal 5, Increase funding to 3 times E&S salaries – You've really excelled on this goal, also! To reach our goal this year, we need to increase our total burdened funding to approximately $70M. So far, we've received over $55.6M (2.4 times E&S salaries), and we expect to receive over $65M (2.8 times E&S salaries) by the end of the year. While this is short of the long-term "3 times salary" goal, it's certainly a step in the right direction. Great work!

I'd like to welcome two new members to our GSL leadership team: Dr. Bill Grogan and Dr. Dave Horner. (You can read their profiles on page 2.)

We had some good times together this summer—we laughed and relaxed on Engineer Day, helped three people celebrate their retirement, and welcomed several new employees. Be sure to introduce yourself when you see the new folks, and let them know how welcomed they are.

As we make our final push to end this fiscal year, I appreciate all the hard work you're doing. As always, we need to meet and exceed our sponsor's expectations, and GSL does a great job in that respect. We'll also need to execute our financial commitments, and help our MSG and MIO staff to accomplish these goals.

On October 6, we'll kick off the new fiscal year with our annual *GSL Town Hall Meeting and Birthday Party*. So, mark your calendars now. We'll take a look at the past year and celebrate our accomplishments, see where we are on our goals, and take a look at the future. I hope to see everyone there!

Dave Pittman

People News

Bill Grogan was selected as ***GSL's new deputy director*** in mid-May. Previously, he served as Chief, Concrete and Materials Branch. His earlier research focused on the design, construction, and evaluation of pavements. He was the principal investigator of a $1.2-million project to investigate and develop requirements for semi-prepared airfields to support the U.S. Air Force's C-17 aircraft. His work has also addressed the application of soil and engineering mechanics, structural dynamics, materials science, and systems analysis for both civil works and military engineering challenges. Bill holds bachelor and master degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and Mississippi State University, respectively. He earned his doctorate in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 1999. Bill lives in Clinton and is the proud father of Jack, age 8.

Bill (William P.) Grogan was named GSL's new Deputy Director on May 15

David A. Horner, new GSL TD

Dave Horner was selected as permanent ***GSL Technical Director for Force Projection and Maneuver Support***. For the past 2 years he served as Acting GSL TD and, previously, was Chief of the Mobility Systems Branch. Before that, he was a researcher in the MSB. Dave joined the staff of the Geotechnical Laboratory in 1986, after 2 years with the Tulsa District's Dam Safety Branch. He holds bachelor and master degrees in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University and was awarded a doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1998. David has received two Army R&D Achievement Awards, was named Vogel Engineer of the Year in 1999, and in 2002 received the ERDC Award for Outstanding Team Effort.

Status of ongoing personnel actions in GSL

Three GSL positions are currently being recruited: two branch chiefs (for Concrete and Materials and for Mobility Systems) and the Deputy Director's secretary. The announcements for all three positions closed on July 11.

For the branch chief positions, the lists provided by the CPOC are currently being reviewed by the evaluation panel to determine the best-qualified candidates. Those candidates will then be required to participate in the corporate selection process, which includes an interview by the Gallup Corporation and a face-to-face interview with the selection panel. This process is being led by Dr. Al Bush, Chief, ESMD, and we plan to have the positions filled this fall.

Dr. Grogan will be selecting the Deputy Director's Secretary from the lists provided by the CPOC.

In addition to these ongoing recruitments, Leandrew Harris (Chief, GSL Management Integration Office) has accepted a position with the Army Audit Office in Alexandria, VA. Everyone interested in being considered for this position should keep an eye out for the vacancy announcement, which should be issued soon.

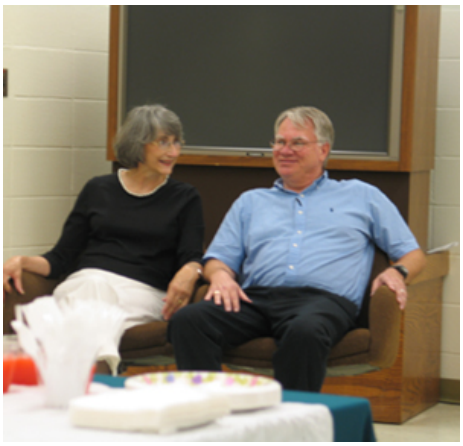
More People News

Deployments

- **Chad Gartrell** (GM-A) – recently completed 60-day duty in Afghanistan
- **Webb Mason** (GM-A) – in Iraq, on his second assignment; coming home in August
- **John Boa** (GM-C) – recently deployed to Afghanistan, through mid-December

Also, **Julie Kelley** and **Ryan North** (both GS-G) recently completed shorter term TDY assignments in the Gulf Region, also in support of OIF and OEF.

Retirements



Ruth and Mich Alexander
Mich (GM-C) retired June 1

Vivian and Bill Huff
Bill (GV-JF) retired July 8

Ed Jackson, GV – *June 3*
(pictured with Tim Ables)

Condolences to…

— **Julie Kelley** (GS-G), whose mother passed away on May 30

— **Dr. David Bennett,** former GL employee, whose wife Diane passed away on Jun 14 after battling cancer

— **Gustavo Cortes** (University of Puerto Rico student working in GS-E), whose father, Santiago Cortes, passed away Jul 12 following an accident

— **James May** (GS-G) on the loss of his brother, Benny R. “Buddy” May of Vicksburg, who died July 15 at his residence after a brief illness

— Family, friends, and former coworkers of **Dr. John Keeley**, former EL Director/Deputy Director, who died on July 25

— GSL (GM-A) retirees **Dick and Bob Grau** on the death of their 94-year-old father, Edward Henry John Grau of Greenville, on July 26

Congratulations to…

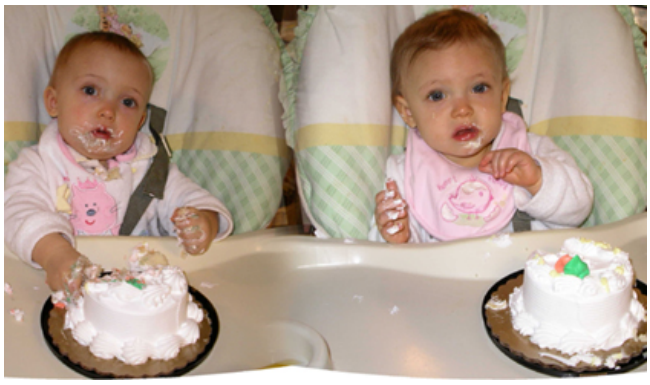
Julia Baker (GS) received her Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) rating in June. This advanced professional designation from the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) requires an individual to satisfy education and experience requirements and pass a comprehensive four-part examination. Julia is the first administrator in the local Key to the South Chapter of the IAAP to achieve the CAP Certification. Her achievement is the administrative equivalent of Professional Engineer Registration for engineers.

GSL Family News

♥ **Tommy Lee** (GS-E) and his wife, Wendy, welcomed the arrival of their firstborn—an 8 lb, 8 oz, 21-in.-long little boy.

Nathan Thomas Lee was born on May 30

♥ **Eileen Glynn** (GS-E) and her family celebrated their twin daughters' first birthday on Jul 27. We heard that the girls really enjoyed their birthday-cake breakfast!

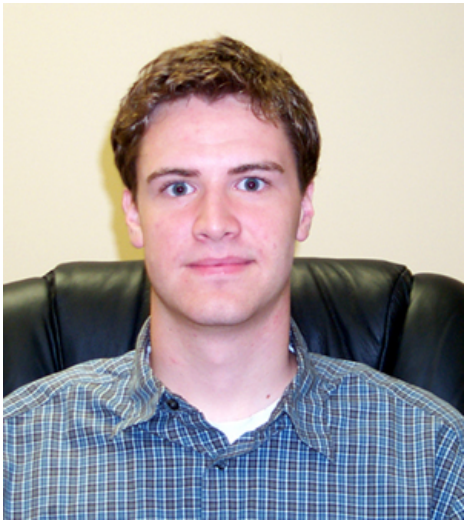


Emma and Christina Waisner

Dorothy Staer (GM) has made a miraculous recovery and will return to a full-time schedule in early August. Here are some heartfelt words from Dorothy to you… *Hi, my GSL friends. On March 18, 2005, I suffered two near fatal strokes. After 2-1/2 months of therapy, I came back to work on May 31, but only part time for another month (maybe two) because I still have a few residual visual problems from the strokes. I could not have made this miraculous recovery without the prayers, good humor, and encouragement received from my family and all of you. When times got tough, you inspired me to keep on keeping on. I also want to give special thanks to all of you who have donated leave to me. I will never forget all your kindnesses.*

New Employees

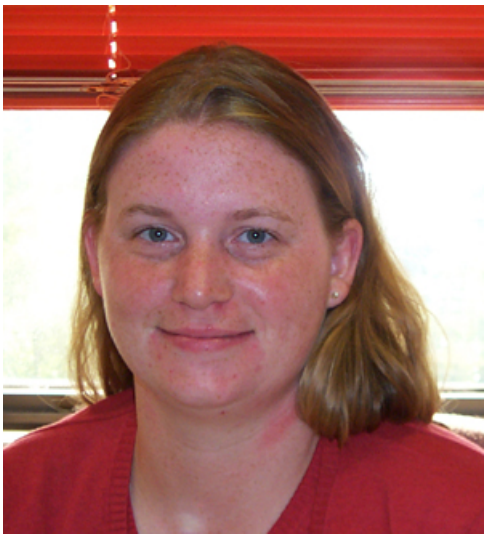
John Boa, **GM-C**
Geologist



Ryan Erickson, **GM-C**
Mechanical Engineer

Michael Guillet, **GM-I**
Mechanical Engineer

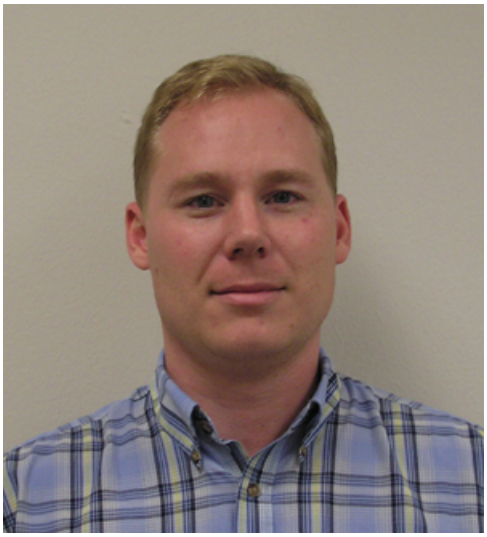
New Employees (Continued)



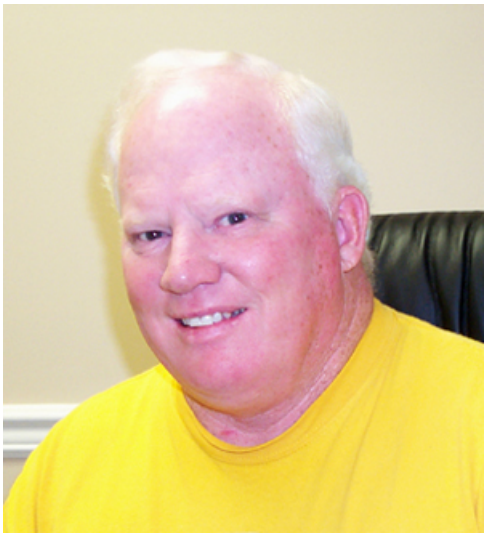
Alanna Lester, **GS-G**
Research Geophysicist

Jason McKenna, **GS-G**
Research Geophysicist

Mihan McKenna, **GS-S**
Research Geophysicist



Chad Morris, **GS-S**
Research Structural Engineer



Mickey Mullinax, **GM-A**
Office Admin. Assistant

Tim Rushing, **GM-A**
Research Civil Engineer

Noah Vroman, **GS-E**
Research Civil Engineer

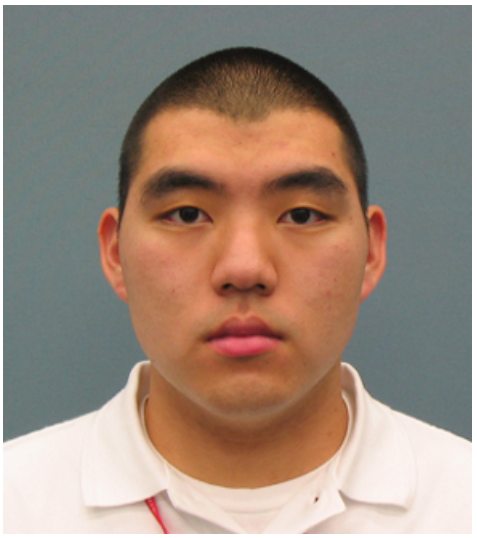
Emilee Booth, **GS-V**
Engineering Aid

Jake Falls, **GM-A**
Contract Student - Engineer

New Employees (Continued)

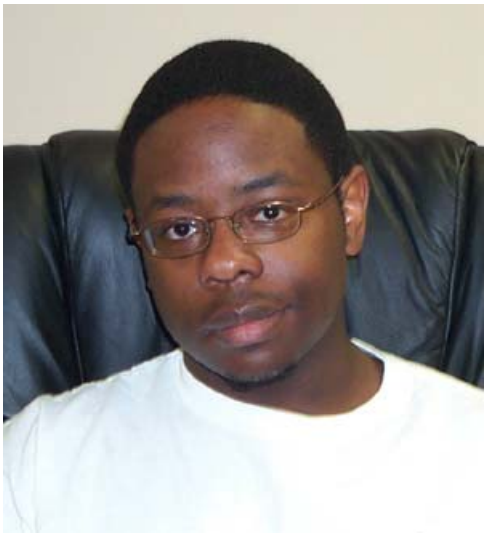
Blake Fields, **GS-M**
Engineering Aid

Jeff Holmes, **GM-I**
Engineering Aid

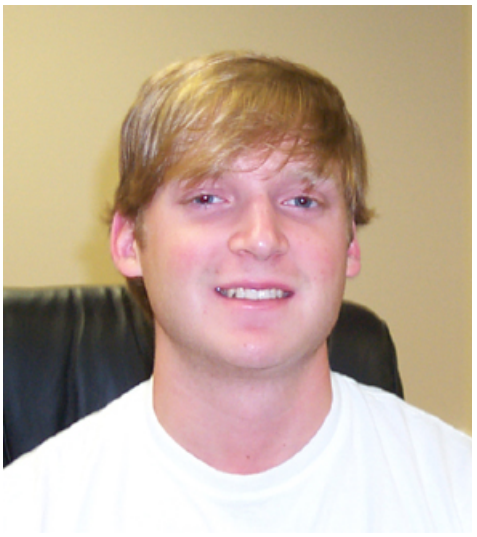


Steve Lee, **GS-M**
Engineering Aid

Lydia Nettle, **GM-T**
Engineering Aid



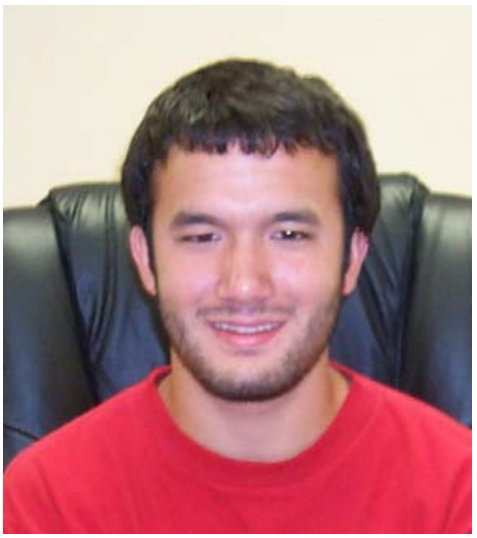
William Nettle, **GM-C**
Contract Student - Engineer



Richard Rhett, **GM-I**
Student Trainee-Mechanical Engr.

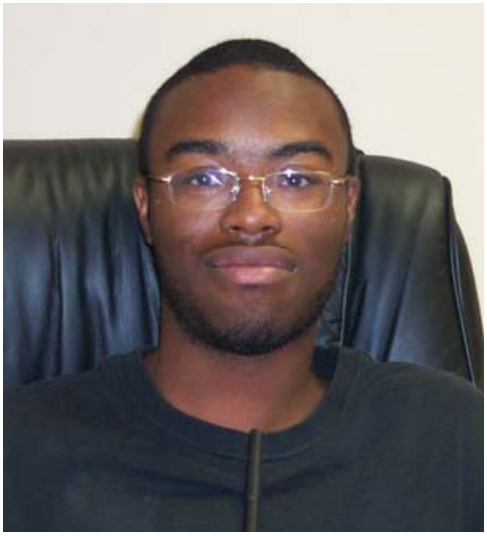
Chelsea Thomas, **GS-G**
Engineering Aid

Jerrod Thomas, **GS-V**
Engineering Aid



Joe Tom, Jr., **GM-A**
Contract Student-Engineer

New Employees (Concluded)



Thad Wade, **GM-C**
Engineering Aid

Ernest Woodward, **GM-A**
Engineering Technician (C)

Mery Rose Worthington, **GS-G**
Contract Student

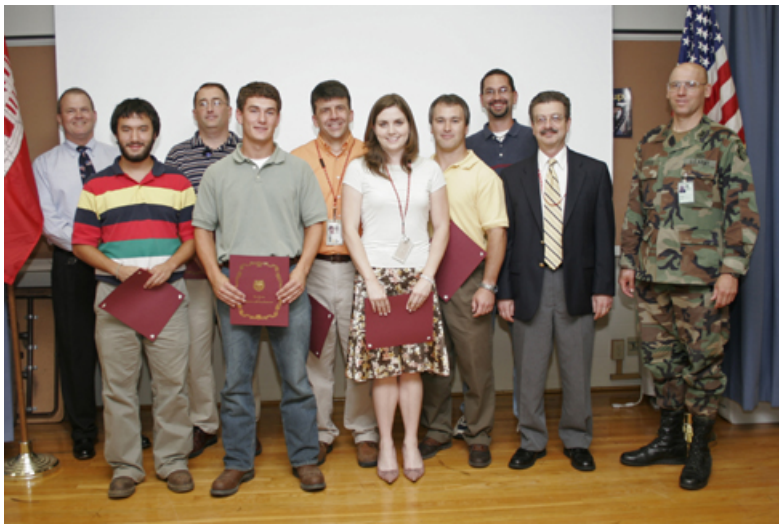
University of Puerto Rico summer students

Students from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, working at ERDC-Vicksburg this summer, are **Daniel Aviles** (GS-V), **Edgardo Velez** (GS-S), Jorge Carmona, **Ricardo Fernos** (GM-M), Sonia Bailón, Lourdes Andujar, **Damián Guzmán** (GS-V), Jonathan Martínez, **Jesús Nuñez** (GM-C), **Osvaldo Vargas** (GM-A), and María Vega. Not pictured are **Gustavo Cortes** (GS-E) and **John Vera** (GM-A). [Photo courtesy of ERDC PAO.]

GSL gives another boost to students…

In a ceremony on Jul 21, several GSL team members were recognized for their assistance in conducting the SAME Summer Camp ’05, either as instructors or helpers.

Shown in the photo (L-R) are Camp Director Leo Phillips (Vicksburg District); GSLers **Joe Tom, Jr.**, **Jeff Williamson**, **John Rushing**, **Brian Green**, **Lucy Phillips**, **Jody Priddy**, and **Ernest Berney**; Dr. Jim Houston; and ERDC Commander COL Rowan. [Not pictured: Cliff Gill. Photo by ITL.]



Calendar

- Sep 25-28, Geothermal Resources Council Annual Meeting, Reno, NV, http://www.geothermal.org/meet.php
- **Oct 6,** ***GSL Town Hall Meeting*** (1-2 pm); ***Birthday Party*** (2:30-3:30 pm)
- Oct 31-Nov 4, 76th Shock and Vibration Symposium, Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, http://www.saviac.org/76th_Symposium/76th_symposium.htm
- Nov 6-10, American Concrete Institute Fall 2005 Convention, New Orleans Marriott, https://www.concrete.org/secured/ConventionRegOpen.asp

Former GSL employee ***Dick Ahlvin*** (center in adjacent photo) is shown along with Carl Monosmith (far left) and Marshall Thompson.

All three were honored by the National Asphalt Pavement Association for inclusion in the "Hot Mix Asphalt Hall of Fame."

Festivities occurred at the group's mid-year meeting held July 18-20 in Washington, DC.

FYI, an important emergency tip — ICE your cell phone! ***[Information provided by Bob Larson, GS-G]***

In times of medical emergency, paramedics often turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier by adopting a simple idea that has been publicized since the recent London terrorist bombings. The acronym ***ICE*** stands for "In Case of Emergency."

Credit: NHS Trust

In your cell phone's contacts list, simply add an entry named ICE, with the name and phone number of the person whom emergency services should contact on your behalf. You can save them a lot of time and also ensure that your loved ones are contacted quickly.

Paramedics know what ICE means, and they look for it immediately. So, do it ***now!***

Here's some background info on ICE…

A British paramedic is credited with first implementing this procedure last year, but recently the idea has spread around the blogosphere—fueled by the London terrorist events, a Jul 18 *Washington Post* story, and the Internet. Some national emergency experts have pointed out potential problems, including privacy issues (next-of-kin information could be accessed by someone other than a member of the emergency service) and the next-of-kin information not being kept current. Even the email hoaxers got involved—spreading false information that ICE entries stored in cell phones would allow viruses to access those units and drain them of their credits.

The *Washington Post* article reported that the Department of Homeland Security had no comment on ICE but recommends citizens look at its emergency preparedness site, Ready.Gov, and keep on hand a "Family Communications Plan."

At any rate, carrying some type of "ICE information" is better than none, whatever method you choose.

Engineer Day 2005 – GSL family photos

Members of GSL's softball team, 2005

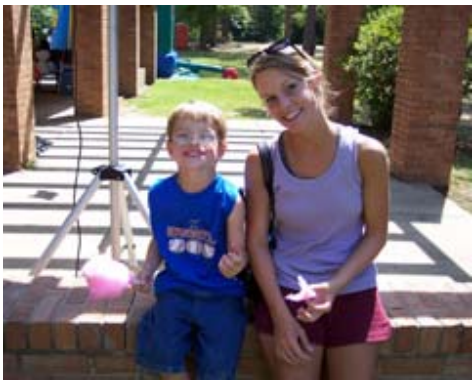
Kneeling, left to right:

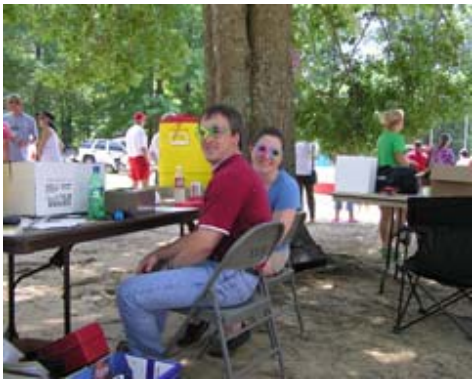
Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis, Janet Simms, Colin Leach, and Lora Johnson

Standing, left to right:

Bob Sheldon, Ernest Berney, Taylor George, Tracey Waddell, Caitie Bailey, Mike Coomes, Katie Fairley, Dean Hill, Mary-Lynn Bagshaw, and John Coomes

[GSL softball team photos courtesy of Laura Bailey, daughter of Rae Eikert. Other Engineerr Day photos courtesy of ERDC PAO, Sara Leach] [Additional photos of "ERDC Happenings" now available on ERDC Intranet.]



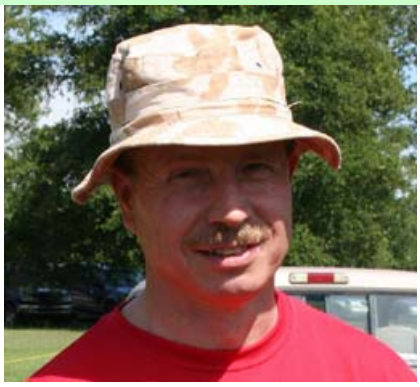


"Cricketman" *by Mike Coomes (GV-B)*

Maj. Robert Sheldon of the Joint Feasibility Study Office is GSL's British Liaison. He played on GSL's softball team this year. We had two practices prior to Engineer Day, and it could not go unnoticed that he did not wear a fielding glove and did not want to use one. He fielded balls from the 3rd base position and in the outfield with seemingly great ease; however, the palms of his hands were red after practice. His method consisted of catching the ball while allowing his arms to continue sweeping back, thus absorbing some of the momentum of the ball. Once he fielded the ball he had an almost automatic motion to first base.

He explained to us that he played ***cricket*** and [*as further explained in the* ***section below***] fielders don't wear gloves. We thought he might be our secret weapon in the outfield. When the opposing team saw him fielding balls barehanded, they would feel intimidated. But, it didn't seem to impress them. I personally think it did and they just didn't say anything. Anyway, it was jolly good to have "Bob" on our team. He brought an international flair to the game and it was the first time, as most of our ballplayers could attest to, that we played on a team where one of our teammates did not use a fielding glove.

Cricket anyone?



GSL's own "Cricketman," Major Bob Sheldon

Cricket is a sport unfamiliar to many of us, although it's very popular in England, Australia, West Indies, South Africa, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe.

A team consists of 11 players (same as offensive and defensive teams in football). A formal game of cricket can last anywhere from an afternoon to several days.

The basic concept is similar to that of baseball. Teams bat in successive innings and attempt to score runs while the opposing team fields and attempts to end the batting team's innings.

Cricket ball and bat

Equipment: The cricket ball is a hard, cork and string ball (approx. 9 in. in circumference) covered in leather that's thicker than a baseball covering. The cricket bat is a blade made of willow, flat on one side and humped on the other for strength, 38 in. long. Other equipment consists of wickets, stumps, and bails. Protective gear includes pads, gloves, and helmet for batsmen to wear to prevent injury when struck by the ball.

Play: The order in which the teams bat is determined by a coin toss. The captain of the side winning the toss may elect to bat or field first. All eleven players of the fielding team go out to field, two players of the batting team go out to bat. The other members of the batting team wait off the field for their turn to bat. Each batsman wears protective gear and carries a cricket bat. The game progresses by the bowling of balls.

The sequence of events that constitutes a ball is this: The fielding team disperses around the field, to positions designed to stop runs being scored or to get batsmen out. One fielder is the ***bowler***. He takes the ball and stands some distance behind one of the wickets (that is, away from the pitch).

Another fielder is the ***wicket-keeper***, who wears a pair of webbed gloves designed for catching the ball and protective pads covering the shins. He squats behind the opposite wicket. *The rest of the fielders have no special equipment. Gloves to assist catching the ball are not allowed to anyone except the wicket-keeper.*

Maj. Sheldon (left) fields from outfield position in GSL's game against rival ITL. ***Look, ma! No glove!***